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Compilation of Deferred Quadrennial Reports submitted by Non-Governmental Organizations in General and Special Consultative Status with the Economic and Social Council

Memorandum by the Secretary-General

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1. International Islamic Federation of Student Organizations

(Special consultative status)

The International Islamic Federation of Student Organizations (IIFSO) has many activities which it carries out through its offices all over the world, especially in the fields of conferences, camps, seminars, training, courses, cultural missions, support of student organizations, publishing and visits. These activities are executed within the context of strategies and plans, taking into consideration the circumstances of every region or country and the financial attitude of the Federation.

Conferences

During the period 1994–1996, IIFSO organized the following conferences:

(a) East Africa Students' Conference (session), June 1994, the Sudan;

(b) South Asia Regional Conference, October 1995, Pakistan;

(c) The Leadership Seminar, January 1994, Sri Lanka;

(d) The International Students Camp, November 1995, Japan;

(e) Arab Students Forum (third session), February 1994, Yemen.

Publishing and translation

IIFSO initiated a publishing programme of selected Islamic literature by major Muslim thinkers and authors. The books treat a wide range of subject matters related to all salient issues.

IIFSO book series has so far been published in minimum of 80 world and local languages spoken by Muslims in all corners of the globe. A total of 20 million books were published from 1986 to 1994.

IIFSO published 4 million books and translated its books into 10 additional languages, for example, Portuguese, Yoruba, Tebele, Zulu, Hausa and so forth.

Training and qualifying

This is one of the principal objectives of IIFSO.

IIFSO has organized annually more than 100 training courses with a scope that encompasses leadership, media, organizing and communication.

In general, we stress the following issues:

(a) Significance of time;

(b) Importance of dialogue that does not lead to conflict;

(c) How work should develop into autonomous and specialized institutions;

(d) How to draw up effective planning for ourselves, our world and our future.

Scholarship

IIFSO provides about 50 opportunities annually for needy students to study in different universities, especially in Saudi Arabia, Egypt, Malaysia, Pakistan and the Sudan. Most of these opportunities come from Africa and Asia. The students include males and females specializing in different fields.

Cultural missions (caravans)

There are groups of preachers who move from one country to another disseminating ideas, experiences about student work. They include different activities according to the differences in peoples and societies. The cultural missions always involved cultural, social, construction and building, medical work, sports competitions. IIFSO achieves approximately 25 missions annually.

2. General Conference of the Seventh-Day Adventists

(Special status granted 1985)

Statement

The Seventh-Day Adventist Church seeks to lead people to a saving relationship with Jesus Christ and to enhance the quality of life not only for its members but for people in all nations of the world. The Seventh-Day Adventist Church and its institutions stand for the democratic principles of free exercise and non-establishment of religion. The Department of Public Affairs and Religious Liberty exists to promote and maintain religious liberty and help Seventh-Day Adventists who are persecuted for their faith. The Department personnel are the Church's

representatives before Governments, international organizations and other religious organizations.

Membership

Our membership for 1994 was 8,382,558, and for the second quarter of 1997 was 9,479,718. Some 1996 statistics (the latest available) show that in 204 countries our organization had 147,526 active employees; owned and operated 5,978 schools (914,789 students); 587 hospitals, clinics, orphanages and other health-care facilities; and 44,108 welfare centres.

Affiliation with non-governmental organizations

Our organization cooperates with other NGOs and religious organizations. To build better understanding, we have official dialogues with the World Lutheran Federation, the Patriarchate of Constantinople and the World Reformed Alliance. The Church is a member of the World Christian Commission and an adviser to the World Council of Churches.

The Adventist Development and Relief Agency International (ADRA), now a United Nations-recognized NGO, is an important humanitarian organization, serving people in more than 140 countries. ADRA works with UNDP, UNHCR, UNESCO, the World Bank, the Canadian International Development Agency, UNICEF, USAID, the Australian Agency for International Development, the Australian Development Assistance Bureau, CARE, the United Way and many other global agencies. The Church provides 4 per cent of the ADRA budget.

Attendance at United Nations meetings

Every year, representatives from our organization attend the Commission on Human Rights at Geneva and the subcommissions in the fall (especially the Subcommission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities). We have attendees at the annual NGO conferences in New York and Geneva. We have designated representatives in New York, Geneva and Vienna. We are in frequent, friendly contact with Professor Abdelfattah Amor, the United Nations Special Rapporteur on religious intolerance. Professor Amor was a principal guest speaker at the Fourth World Congress on Religious Liberty sponsored by our affiliate organization, the International Religious Liberty Association in 1997 at Rio de Janeiro.

To celebrate the Year of the Family in 1994, the Church's Family Ministries Department held family leadership development seminars in Antigua and Barbuda (11–17 January); Chiangmai, Thailand (6–15 February); Pune, India (17 February–2 March); Sydney (15–29 April); the Netherlands (17–31 May); and the United Kingdom (27 May–9 June).

In 1995, the same department conducted family leadership development seminars at Bloemfontein and Hartenbos, South Africa; in Malawi; at Cairo; and at Amman. In 1996, there were several family and parenting seminars in the United States (January–June) and Japan (3 May–8 June); and at Helsinki (28 July–4 August). In 1997, the department held seminars in the United States (January–June) and East Africa (7–29 April). The Church's Divorce and Remarriage Study Commission met in the United Kingdom (11–17 September 1997).

Representatives from our organization attended the Fourth World Conference on Women NGO Forum at Beijing (1995) and the meeting of the NGO Committee on the Family at Vienna in 1996.

Implementation of United Nations resolutions

Activities of the General Conference of Seventh-Day Adventists contribute to the promotion of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination. The Church has strong programmes in education, health and religious freedom in harmony with United Nations recommendations. Our organization highlighted the United Nations proclamation of 1995 as the International Year of Tolerance with a written statement to our members from our quinquennial world convocation at Utrecht, the Netherlands.

The General Conference of Seventh-Day Adventists provides support to other organizations, such as the International Religious Liberty Association (IRLA), which organizes frequent regional and world congresses on religious freedom, including at Moscow (1996 and 1997), Budapest (1997) and Rio de Janeiro (1997). IRLA supports *Conscience et Liberté*, a journal published in six languages. The General Conference has been strongly involved in the commemoration of the fiftieth anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, with conferences and symposiums organized in many countries and on all continents.

Participation in the Economic and Social Council

One of our Church representatives was listed as a speaker on implementation of the Declaration on the Elimination of All Forms of Intolerance and of

Discrimination Based on Religion or Belief at the fifty-fourth session of the Commission on Human Rights.

Cooperation with officials of the United Nations Secretariat

One of our Church representatives signed a joint statement on the independence of special rapporteurs, and wrote to the Presidents of Algeria, Indonesia and Austria in defence of human rights.

The General Conference of Seventh-Day Adventists supports and promotes the United Nations mission in favour of justice, peace and liberty in more than 200 countries. We plan to increase our presence at United Nations meetings and commissions and our general support.

3. Robert F. Kennedy Memorial

(Special consultative status granted 1993)

Introduction

The Robert F. Kennedy Memorial (RFK Memorial) seeks to promote respect for justice, human rights and the rule of law. It works to accomplish these aims through several programmes. The RFK Book and Journalism Awards recognize authors and journalists, print and broadcast, whose work reflects Robert Kennedy's "concern for the poor and powerless, his struggle for honest and even-handed justice". The RFK National Youth Project works to empower youth in American cities as leaders of their communities and encourages them to cooperate to reduce violence in their neighbourhoods. The RFK Human Rights Award honours individuals who stand up to oppression in the non-violent pursuit of respect for human rights.

The RFK Memorial Centre for Human Rights (the RFK Centre) carries out projects that support, complement or enhance the human rights work of the RFK Human Rights Award laureates and promote respect for human rights in their countries. The RFK Centre investigates and publishes reports on human rights conditions and campaigns to heighten awareness of these issues and to stop abuses, and encourages Governments, international organizations and corporations to adopt policies that ensure respect for international human rights. Through its relationships with the Award laureates, the organizations with which they are affiliated and other activists in their countries, the RFK Centre strives to enhance their capacity, to help marshal the resources necessary for them to work more effectively, to increase the impact of their work and to share the lessons from their experience with the international human rights community.

The RFK Memorial is not a membership organization. It has an International Advisory Committee, currently composed of 70 members from throughout the world, who nominate candidates for the RFK Human Rights Award. The continents and countries represented by International Advisory Committee members are:

Africa: Ghana, Kenya, Senegal, South Africa, Zimbabwe; *Americas*: Argentina, Bolivia, Canada, Chile, Guatemala, Mexico, Peru, United States of America; *Asia and the Middle East*: Cambodia, India, Israel, the Occupied Palestinian Territories, Pakistan, Philippines, Sri Lanka; *Europe*: Czech Republic, Finland, France, Netherlands, Poland, Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, Sweden, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland; *Other*: Australia.

For the Memorial's human rights work, its core constituency is made up of the RFK Human Rights Award laureates, with whom the Centre develops a close, collaborative relationship. The continents and countries of the Award laureates are:

Africa: Kenya, Malawi, South Africa, the Sudan; *Americas*: El Salvador, Guatemala; *Asia and the Middle East*: China, India, Indonesia, Israel, the Occupied Palestinian Territories, Republic of Korea, Viet Nam; *Europe*: Poland, Turkey.

There have been no substantial changes in the Memorial's funding sources. It continues to receive the bulk of its support from private contributions and fundraising events. It also receives support from foundations. The domestic National Youth Project has received grants from the American Government for its work. The RFK Centre does not accept government funding for its work. It did receive a grant of $8,000 in 1997 from the United States Agency for International Development; the entire amount directly supported an internship that the RFK Centre organized in the United States for a young Haitian attorney who manages the Guy Malary Law Library, which the RFK Centre helped to establish within Haiti's National Library.

Participation in the Economic and Social Council and other United Nations activities

The RFK Memorial has participated each year since 1994 in the annual sessions of the United Nations Commission for Human Rights. The RFK Memorial presented the following statements at or in conjunction with those sessions:

Commission on Human Rights, fiftieth session, 1994

Oral statement on human rights violations and national security laws.

Commission on Human Rights, fifty-first session, 1995

Written statement on the draft declaration on human rights defenders, submitted to the pre-sessional working group on the draft declaration on human rights defenders;

Oral statement on human rights violations and national security laws;

Oral statement on United Nations advisory services and human rights monitoring.

Commission on Human Rights, fifty-second session, 1996

Written statement on human rights violations and national security laws.

The RFK Centre also participated in the Fourth World Conference on Women, held in Beijing from 4 to 15 September 1995. The RFK Centre presented two workshops for the Non-Governmental Organization Forum participants on international advocacy of human rights, particularly women's rights. The Centre worked before and during the Conference to enhance the participation of non-governmental organizations (NGOs) in the Conference and prepared a report detailing problems encountered at the Women's Conference and the NGO Forum and recommending steps for the United Nations and Governments to take to assure enhanced NGO participation in future United Nations meetings.

Cooperation with United Nations programmes, bodies and specialized agencies and other relevant activities

The RFK Centre has cooperated with a number of the special procedures of the Commission on Human Rights. The RFK Centre has submitted three cases concerning Chinese prisoners to the Working Group on Arbitrary Detention, which communicated two of these cases to the Government of the People's Republic of China as urgent appeals. The RFK Centre has also provided reports and other information regarding human rights issues in China, Guatemala, Kenya, Indonesia and the Occupied Palestinian Territories to the Special Rapporteur on freedom of opinion and expression, the Special Rapporteur on the independence of judges and lawyers, the Independent expert on the situation of human rights in Guatemala and the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Palestinian Territories occupied since 1967.

In 1995 and 1996, while the RFK Centre was carrying out research for the 1996 report, *Civil Patrols and their Legacy, Overcoming Militarization and Polarization in the Guatemalan Countryside*, the United Nations Verification Mission in Guatemala (MINUGUA) provided invaluable assistance and advice. The RFK Centre has continued to cooperate with MINUGUA.

The United Nations Centre for Human Rights office in Malawi provided assistance and some funding for the conference, "Understanding the Past to Safeguard the Future", organized by the University of Malawi and the RFK Centre, in Lilongwe, Malawi, in October 1996. As a result of the Centre for Human Rights' assistance, the United Nations Special Rapporteur on extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions, Bacre Waly N'diaye, participated in the conference. Following the conference, the representative of the Centre, Mr. N'diaye and the RFK Centre participated in a half-day meeting with the entire Malawi National Compensation Tribunal in Blantyre.

The RFK Centre has also consulted extensively with the United Nations International Civilian Mission in Haiti (MICIVIH) on the Centre-initiated project that led to the establishment of the Guy Malary Law Library in Port-au-Prince.

4. Society for Threatened Peoples

(Special consultative status granted 1993)

Introduction

The Society for Threatened Peoples is an international human rights organization with national sections in Germany (approx. 7,200 members), Luxembourg (approx. 120 members), Italy (approx. 20 members), South-Tyrol (150 members), Austria (approx. 600 members), Switzerland (approx. 800 members) and Bosnia and Herzegovina (approx. 200 members). The main focus of our work is the fight against genocide and discrimination against cultures, languages and religions of threatened minorities and nationalities through the use of press releases, conferences, vigils, talks with parliamentarians and politicians. We make information available for the media and try to attract the attention of the international public. Our archive has directories on several hundred threatened groups and minorities; it is one of the largest documentation centres of this kind in Europe.

Participation in the Economic and Social Council and its subsidiary bodies and/or conferences and other United Nations meetings

1994

Commission on Human Rights — Subcommission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities — Working Group on Indigenous Populations, 18 to 29 July 1994, Geneva (12 persons)

Commission on Human Rights — Subcommission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities, forty-sixth session 1 to 26 August 1994, Geneva (2 persons)

One oral statement on the situation of the Kanaka Maoli, Hawaii

International Conference on Population and Development, 5 to 13 September 1994, Cairo (1 person)

1995

Preparatory Committee for the World Summit for Social Development, third session, 16 to 27 January 1995, New York (3 persons)

Commission on Human Rights, fifty-first session, 30 January to 10 March 1995, Geneva (25 persons)

Oral statement on the struggle for self-determination of the Nagas (India)

Oral statement on the human rights situation in Tibet (China)

Oral statement on the human rights situation in Chechnya (Russian Federation)

Written statement on the human rights situation in Tibet (China)

World Summit for Social Development, 6 to 12 March 1995, Copenhagen (3 persons)

Commission on Narcotic Drugs, thirty-eighth session, 14 to 23 March 1995, Vienna (2 persons)

Oral statement on the meaning of the traditional cultivation of cocoa for the indigenous population in Bolivia

Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, 28 March to 7 April 1995, Berlin (2 persons)

Economic and Social Council, substantive session, 6 June to 28 July 1995, Geneva (1 person)

Commission on Human Rights — Subcommission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities, forty-seventh session, 31 July to 25 August 1995, Geneva (20 persons)

Oral statement on the struggle for self-determination of the Nagas (India)

Oral statement on the human rights situation in Chechnya (Russian Federation)

Oral statement on the human rights situation of the Crimean Tartars (Russian Federation)

Oral statement on the human rights situation in Tibet (China)

Oral statement on the human rights situation of the Chittagong Hill People (India)

Oral statement on the human rights violations against the Ogoni People (Nigeria)

Commission on Human Rights — Subcommission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities — Working Group on Indigenous Populations, 17 to 28 July 1995, Geneva (8 persons)

1996

Commission on Human Rights, fifty-second session, 18 March to 26 April 1996, Geneva (20 persons)

Oral statement on freedom of religion in Tibet (China, item 18)

Oral statement on the human rights situation in Chechnya (Russian Federation, item 10)

Oral statement on the self-determination of indigenous people in general (item 7)

Oral statement on the draft declaration on rights of indigenous peoples

Commission on Narcotic Drugs, thirty-ninth session, 16 to 25 April 1996, Vienna (2 persons)

Oral statement on the theme "Cocoa cultivation, international agreements and anti-drug legislation" (Bolivia)

Commission on Human Rights — Subcommission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities, forty-eighth session, July/August 1996 (4 weeks), Geneva (10 persons)

Oral statement on the human rights situation in Tibet (China)

Oral statement on the struggle for self-determination of the Nagas (India)

Written statement on the human rights situation in Tibet (China)

Commission on Human Rights — Subcommission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities — Working Group on Indigenous Populations, fourteenth session, July 1996 (1 week), Geneva (30 persons)

Oral statement on the situation of the indigenous minorities in India in general

1997

Commission on Human Rights, fifty-third session, 10 March to 18 April 1997, Geneva (26 persons)

Oral statement on the human rights situation in Tibet (China)

Oral statement on the struggle for self-determination of the Nagas (India)

Oral statement on the human rights situation in Bougainville (Indonesia)

Oral statement on the human rights situation in Assam (India)

Oral statement on the human rights situation of the Caucasian minority (Russian Federation)

Oral statement on the human rights situation in Nagomo-Bergkarabach

Written statement on the human rights situation in Tibet

Commission on Narcotic Drugs, fortieth session, 18 to 27 March 1997, Vienna (2 persons)

Oral statement on the meaning of the traditional cultivation of cocoa for the indigenous population in Colombia

Commission on Narcotic Drugs acting as Preparatory Body for the twentieth special session of the United Nations General Assembly devoted to the fight against the illicit production, sale, demand, traffic and distribution of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances and related activities, first meeting, 26 and 27 March 1997, Vienna (2 persons)

Commission on Human Rights — Subcommission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities — Working Group on Contemporary Forms of Slavery, 20 to 29 May 1997, Geneva (1 person)

Commission on Narcotic Drugs acting as Preparatory Body for the twentieth special session of the United Nations General Assembly devoted to the fight against the illicit production, sale, demand, traffic and distribution of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances and related activities, first informal open-ended meeting, 7 to 9 July 1997, Vienna (3 persons)

Oral statement on the theme "Biodiversity and the politics of drugs"

Commission on Human Rights — Subcommission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities, forty-ninth session, 4 to 29 August 1997, Geneva (21 persons)

Oral statement on the situation of the indigenous people in India

Oral statement on the human rights situation of the South Molukkans (Indonesia)

Oral statement on the struggle for self-determination of the Nagas (India)

Two oral statements on the human rights situation in Tibet

Written statement on the question of freedom of religion in Tibet (China, item 11)

Commission on Human Rights — Subcommission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities — Working Group on Indigenous Populations, 28 July to 1 August 1997, Geneva (9 persons)

Commission on Narcotic Drugs acting as Preparatory Body for the twentieth special session of the United Nations General Assembly devoted to the fight against the illicit production, sale, demand, traffic and distribution of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances and related activities, second informal open-ended meeting, 7 to 9 October 1997, Vienna (3 persons)

Oral Statement on the theme "Human rights and drug politics in Peru"

Human Rights Committee — Intersessional Working Group on a Draft Declaration on Rights of Indigenous Peoples, 27 October to 7 November 1997 (7 persons)

Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change — seventh session of the subsidiary body for implementation, 20 to 29 October 1997, Bonn (3 persons)

Commission on Narcotic Drugs acting as Preparatory Body for the twentieth special session of the United Nations General Assembly devoted to the fight against the illicit production, sale, demand, traffic and distribution of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances and related activities, third informal open-ended meeting, 3 to 5 December 1997, Vienna (3 persons)

Oral statement on the theme "Drugs and alternative development in Colombia"

Other relevant activities

Activities of the Society for Threatened Peoples in relation to the International Decade of the World's Indigenous People:

Events marking the opening of the International Decade in Bonn and Berlin in December 1994, including reception by the President of the German Parliament, the organization of a press conference as well as a podium discussion.

Political and financial support of the self-organization of the Adivasi indigenous group, advising the Adivasi representatives at the United Nations in Geneva (at the session of the Commission on Human Rights).

Campaign for the ratification of ILO Convention 169 by Germany and other Western European States.

5. Women's International Zionist Organization

(Special consultative status granted 1959)

Introductory statement

The Women's International Zionist Organization (WIZO) is an international voluntary movement of 300,000 women with federations in 52 countries. Since it was founded more than 75 years ago, it has provided services to children, women, families and society, regardless of their race or religious affiliation.

Participation in the Economic and Social Council and its subsidiary bodies and or other United Nations meetings

During the past four years, WIZO multiplied its efforts to ensure implementation, both in spirit and in the letter, of the objectives of the United Nations forward-looking strategies and to fulfill the objectives of the Beijing Platform for Action, to safeguard the full equality of women. WIZO has insisted on the creation of full and equal opportunities for women to develop their talents and creative abilities and to facilitate their involvement in the process of development. WIZO has promoted, throughout its federations, educational programmes of friendship and mutual cooperation and exchanges in the achievement of peace. In the past four years, a major concern for WIZO has been to develop services geared specifically to women in the throes of family violence through the creation of legal advice bureaux and shelters for battered women and their children. Towards the advancement of the status of women, WIZO opened additional day-care centres, pedagogic and therapeutic centres. WIZO also opened additional youth clubs, including some in Arab villages.

Cooperation with United Nations Programmes and bodies and the specialized agencies

Since its establishment, WIZO's main efforts have been dedicated to the welfare of children and adolescents. WIZO applauded the unanimous adoption by the General Assembly of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child, especially the new rights that appear for the first time in an international human rights document, such as consideration of a child's ethnic, religious or linguistic heritage when providing alternative family care. WIZO federations have continued to actively support the work of UNICEF. WIZO organized seminars and other events to strengthen families in ways that increase equality, mutual respect and responsibilities, while taking into account and respecting existing family structures.

Other relevant activities

WIZO has set up the Committee for the Advancement of Women in Politics, the aim of which is to have more women involved in politics by encouraging them to stand for municipal elections.

Action in Implementation of United Nations resolutions: dissemination of information: WIZO encourages the dissemination of information on United Nations bodies among its federations. Visits and tours to the United Nations building have been organized throughout the years.

Consultations and cooperation with officials of the United Nations Secretariat: WIZO attendance at United Nations meetings in New York and Geneva: WIZO representatives have attended and/or held consultations with members of the following United Nations bodies or agencies:

Commission on the Status of Women, Vienna, New York;

Commission on Human Rights, Geneva;

Subcommission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities, Geneva;

Third Committee sessions of the United Nations General Assembly;

Economic and Social Council sessions, New York, and Geneva;

UNICEF Executive Board meetings in New York.

WIZO representatives in New York, Geneva and Vienna regularly attend:

Conference of Non-Governmental Organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council;

Weekly briefings of the Department of Public Information for the non-governmental organization community in New York;

Meetings of the Non-Governmental Organizations Committee on UNICEF;

Non-Governmental Organizations committee on the United Nations Women's Decade, New York;

Annual conference of the Department of Public Information of the United Nations for Non-Governmental Organizations.

Consultative activities: 1994–1997

Prior to the extended session of the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women in New York, WIZO participated in all non-governmental organizations consultative meetings and also in the meetings of the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women.

WIZO participated at the non-governmental organizations meetings in Beijing 1995, in Huairou, China, and in the fourth World Conference on Women in Beijing, 1995.

In Huairou, China, (August–September 1995), WIZO organized five workshops on cooperation with international women's organizations such as the International Business and Professional Women and the International Alliance of Women.

These workshops were successful and focused on the following topics:

Ageing;

Prevention of domestic violence;

Equality (Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women);

Voluntarism and empowering women through parenting education.

Regional meetings and conferences

1994 Nordic Forum, Turku, Finland;

Regional preparatory conference and the regional non-governmental organizations forum for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), Mar del Plata, Argentina;

Regional non-governmental organizations forum for Europe, Vienna;

The European Council of WIZO Federations is represented at all meetings and sessions of the European Women's Lobby.

1995 WIZO is a member of the National Committees for UNICEF and participates in UNICEF fundraising campaigns;

WIZO was represented at the World Summit for Social Development, Copenhagen;

WIZO was represented by a large delegation at the Non-Governmental Organizations Forum and at the fourth World Conference on Women, Beijing, 1995.

1997 WIZO participated in the seventh United Nations regional conference (ECLAC) held in Santiago, Chile.

6. Foundation for the Rights of the Family (PRODEFA)

(Special consultative status granted 1987)

Introduction

Aims and purposes are to enhance the basic functions of the family in society; and to promote a declaration on the rights and responsibilities of the family. PRODEFA's whole activity is centred on this purpose through the organization of meetings, seminars and workshops, position papers, the study of international documents, publications and contacts with United Nations officers and Member States and with other family and social non-governmental organizations. PRODEFA is a Board member of the Vienna NGO Committee on the Family and collaborates with all affiliated non-governmental organizations.

PRODEFA's International Secretariat has 21 members dispersed across Africa, the Americas, Asia, Australia and Europe. The organization is mainly funded by the Spanish Ministry of Social Affairs.

Participation in the Economic and Social Council

PRODEFA has been attending the Commission for Social Development since 1987, first in Vienna and later in New York, and maintains a good relationship with the delegates, for most of them have remained the same over the years, except for the fact that there have been political changes taking place in some of the countries.

At all the sessions of the Commission for Social Development, PRODEFA presents written and oral statements focused on the family and family members. Attendance at United Nations meetings and conferences was as follows:

(a) 1994: 18 and 19 October, General Assembly, forty-ninth session, International Conferences on Families, New York;

(b) 1994: 4–7 February, United Nations Interregional Meeting of National Coordinators/Focal Points for the International Year of the Family, Bratislava, Slovakia (as a member of the Spanish Delegation);

(c) 1995: 6–12 March, World Summit for Social Development, Copenhagen: participation in a Workshop and a joint declaration;

(d) 1995: 10–20 April, thirty-fourth session of the Commission for Social Development, New York: written and oral statements on item 4 of the agenda entitled "Monitoring of international plans and programmes of action";

(e) 1995: 4–15 September, Fourth World Conference on Women, Beijing: written statement signed by a number of non-governmental organizations;

(f) 1996: 21–31 May, special session of the Commission for Social Development, New York: written and oral statements on item 4 of the agenda entitled "Substantive theme: strategies and actions for the eradication of poverty";

(g) 1997: 26 February–6 March, thirty-fifth session of the Commission for Social Development, New York: written and oral statements on item 3 (b) of the agenda entitled "Follow-up to the World Summit for Social Development: review of relevant United Nations plans and programmes of action pertaining to the situation of social groups".

Preparation of papers and/or other material at the request of the Economic and Social Council or of the United Nations Secretariat

The only papers PRODEFA prepares are the oral and written statements for the Commission for Social Development. However, we have forwarded our own publications to several United Nations departments, the last being the Spanish updated version of "The Family and Human Rights", excerpts from United Nations documents and instruments from 1948 to 1997. The updated compilation in English is being prepared.

Other examples of consultative and substantive activities, including financial assistance received from or given to the United Nations, field-level collaboration, joint sponsorship of meetings, seminars, studies and so on are as follows:

(a) Interregional meeting: in 1997, PRODEFA started having contacts with the Permanent Mission of Spain to the United Nations and with the Family Unit (Division for Social Policy and Development) with a view to organizing in Madrid an interregional meeting of delegations of the Commission for Social Development, scheduled to be held in 1999. Several delegations have already been approached. This meeting, an initiative of PRODEFA, is being prepared in collaboration with the Vienna Committee. The three panels of five delegations and two non-governmental organizations will each discuss the social dimension of the family at international level. The Preliminary Programme, prepared by PRODEFA, has been discussed and reviewed by the Family Committee in Vienna and the Family Unit in New York. The meeting is being financed by the Spanish Ministry of Social Affairs;

(b) Conference: in December 1994, PRODEFA held its sixth International Conference on "Responsibilities and Rights of the Family as a resource for sustainable development", financed by the European Commission and by the Spanish Ministry of Social Affairs. Henryk J. Sokalski, United Nations Coordinator of the International Year of the Family, made a presentation;

(c) Vienna NGO Family Committee: as a Board member, PRODEFA attends the five to six Board meetings held annually, plus two full Committee meetings. Vienna created a permanent Working Group to assess and improve the relationship with the United Nations, PRODEFA being leader of the Group.

7. World Muslim Congress

(General consultative status granted 1967)

Introduction

The World Muslim Congress, the oldest international Muslim organization, was founded in 1926. It works for peace on the basis of justice and friendship towards all. It is a non-political organization which firmly believes in the universal brotherhood of mankind without discrimination. It strives for interfaith dialogue aimed at creating mutual tolerance amongst the adherents of all religions.

As per its constitution, the organization has a president, two vice-presidents, one each from Africa and Asia, and has many branches in the world.

Participation in the Economic and Social Council and other United Nations activities and meetings

The organization has supported, and continues to fully support, the objectives and activities of the Economic and Social Council and its subsidiary bodies. The permanent representative of the World Muslim Congress at Geneva has been actively participating in conferences and meetings, as indicated below:

Economic and Social Council substantive sessions	26 June–28 July 1995, 30 June–25 July 1997
Commission on Human Rights fiftieth to fifty-third sessions	31 January–11 March 1994, 30 January–10 March 1995, 18 March–26 April 1996, 10 March–18 April 1997
Subcommission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities	1–26 August 1994, 31 July–25 August 1995, 5–30 August 1996, 4–29 August 1997
Working Group on minorities	
First session	28 August–1 September 1995
Second session	30 April–3 May 1996
Third session	26–30 May 1997
International Committee of the Red Cross	14 October 1994, 10 October 1995
International non-governmental organizations meeting/European non-governmental organization symposium	2–4 September 1996, 25–28 August 1997
Non-governmental organization Committee on Freedom of Religion and Belief	15 August 1995

Periodic information meetings for non-governmental organizations.

Active participation during the period in the activities of the Conference of Non-Governmental Organizations in Consultative Status with the Economic and Social Council.

Similarly, the representative of the World Muslim Congress to the United Nations in New York has been actively participating in the activities of the Economic and Social Council and its subsidiary organizations concerning many subjects, including human rights, drug control, women in development, United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), and participated in the regular session of the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) Executive Board held in New York in February 1995 and September 1996.

In addition, the organization participated in the Family Planning Conference held in Egypt and in the Fourth World Conference on Women held in Beijing in September 1995. The Secretary-General represented the organization at the fifth session of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice held in Vienna in May 1996.

Some of the speeches delivered by the organization's representatives in forums of the Economic and Social Council pertain to human rights violations, drug control, rights and protection of children, women in development, crimes and criminal justice.

Cooperation with United Nations programmes

The organization has been particularly active in promoting United Nations programmes and objectives with regard to international peace and security, human rights, drug control and ensuring the legitimate role and rights of women and children, for which seminars have been held at regular intervals by the organization in almost all of the 35 countries where it has branches.

The President and Secretary-General of the organization have been quite active in striving to bring about peace in war-torn and devastated Afghanistan, for which

purpose they have been actively associated with various efforts made to resolve the Afghan conflict.

With a view to promoting interreligious understanding and furthering the objectives of the Charter of the United Nations at its fourth annual international conference, held in September 1997, the organization chose the subject of "The Muslim Ummah in the Next Century", at which Muslims and non-Muslim intellectuals and scholars, including the Chairman of the Millennium Institute, USA, and other non-Muslim scholars, actively participated. The conference discussed the contribution that Muslims can make to help resolve problems facing the human race.

Concerned about the abuses of children and for the protection of their rights, the organization has been pressing the Governments and non-governmental organizations of Muslim countries to give priority to the subject and, where feasible, has recommended the introduction of requisite legislation to achieve the objectives. As a result of the organization's lobbying with the parliamentarians of Pakistan, many administrative measures were adopted by that Government to implement the Economic and Social Council programmes relating to the rights and protection of children.

Other relevant activities

During the period, the World Muslim Congress gave substantial aid, in the form of medicines, clothing and food, to the victims of Serbian aggression in Bosnia. Given in 1994 and 1995 the aid included specific aid for children, sent through UNICEF.

With regard to the protection of the rights of minorities the Secretary-General has been in constant contact with the leaders of the minority communities in Pakistan with a view to assisting them and ensuring for them equitable justice and rights. The organization organized a Muslim-Christian dialogue in Islamabad.

The organization has been very closely associated with the World Conference on Religion and Peace (WCRP) and the Secretary-General of the organization was nominated as President of WCRP in 1994. He attended the sixth General Assembly meeting of WCRP, held in December 1995.

For a long time now, the organization has been publishing a weekly review of world events. The review reflects the achievements, work and activities of the United Nations and copies of the publication reach many countries of the world.

8. International Alliance of Women

(General consultative status granted 1947)

Aims and purposes of the organization

Women's rights are human rights. Human rights are indivisible, interdependent and interrelated. The International Alliance of Women (IAW) affirms that full and equal enjoyment of human rights is due to all women and girls. IAW maintains that a prerequisite of securing these rights is the universal ratification and implementation without reservation of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW). Priorities for further action concern civil and political rights; education for all: legal literacy; and the issues of violence and health.

Membership, December 1997

Total: 640 from 72 countries

Geographical distribution	*Number of members*	*Number of countries*
Western Europe	400	17
Eastern Europe	17	7
Middle East	23	4
Africa	64	21
Asia	37	7
Americas	42	10
Pacific	55	6

New affiliates since 1993 include organizations from: Togo; Yugoslavia; Japan; Mozambique; South Africa; Ireland; the Republic of Bashkortostan and Egypt.

Financial issues

The income of IAW is derived from membership fees and interest on fixed-term deposits. A few affiliates and associates are unable to pay their fees but are carried for several years depending on the circumstances. The Secretary and Treasurer each recovers her expenses. Travelling and other costs are borne by individuals or affiliates.

IAW representation

International:

(a) New York:

(i) 1994, 1995, 1996, 1997: Economic and Social Council (New York and Geneva);

(ii) Thirty-sixth, thirty-ninth, fortieth, forty-first sessions of the Commission on the Status of Women;

(iii) Second, third, fourth and fifth sessions of the Commission on Sustainable Development;

(iv) 1995: Preparatory Committee for the Fourth World Conference on Women; 1996: NGO Committee on UNICEF;

(b) Vienna:

(i) 1994 European regional preparatory meeting for the Ninth United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders;

(ii) 1995: Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) regional preparatory meeting for the Fourth World Conference on Women (Beijing);

(iii) 1996: Fifth session of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice;

(iv) 1997: Fortieth session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs;

(v) 1997: Sixth session of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice;

(c) Geneva:

(i) Commission on Human Rights: 1994; 1995; 1996;

(ii) 1996: Subcommissions on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities: racism; status of women; 1996 working groups on women's human rights; traditional practices; active role in preparing non-governmental statements;

(iii) International Labour Organization (ILO): 1994; 1995; 1996; 1997: eighty-second to eighty-fifth General Conferences; 1994: agreement on self-employment; 1996: working groups on women and employment; home work; child labour; active role in preparing non-governmental organization statements on these;

(iv) 1996 IAW Round Table on Human Rights and Human Settlements;

(v) World Health Organization (WHO): 1994; 1995; 1996; 1997: forty-eighth to fiftieth World Health Assemblies; collaboration with non-governmental organization working groups on primary health care; traditional practices harmful to women and children; drug abuse; membership; Health Group in the NGO Committee on the Status of Women;

(d) Cairo: International Conference on Population and Development, 1994;

(e) Copenhagen: Commission for Social Development, 1995; also attended by many affiliates;

(f) Beijing: Fourth World Conference on Women: all affiliates sent delegates to Forum;

(g) Paris: United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO): twenty-eighth and twenty-ninth sessions of the General Conference; 1995: Fourth World Conference on Women: representative of UNESCO non-governmental organizations at Hiarou Forum; 1995: Fourth World Conference on Women representative included in official French delegation; 1996: UNESCO projects on behalf of Francophone women of Southern and Northern Europe;

(h) Rome: Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) non-governmental organization 1995 consultations with the Committee on the Status of Women;

(i) Istanbul: United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat) 1995.

Regional:

(a) 1995: all regional preparatory committee meetings for Beijing were attended;

(b) 1994–1996: regional meetings prior to FAO World Food Summit;

(c) 1997 Manila Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) Ministerial Meeting on Social Development; Sydney, meeting statement: violence against women; Geneva, WHO statement: reproductive health: right to health (IAW/Alliance internationale de femmes (AIF)).

Annual meetings and triennial congress:

(a) 1994: Netherlands: IAW international meeting;

(b) 1995: Beijing, Fourth World Conference on Women; executive meeting;

(c) 1996: Cyprus pre-Congress meeting; Calcutta, IAW Triennial Congress and Seminar on "The Girl Child";

(d) 1997: Executive Meeting (international telephone hook-up); Paris IAW Board Meeting and Seminar entitled "Bringing Home Beijing"; election to the Board of Conference of Non-Governmental Organizations in Consultative Status with the Economic and Social Council (CONGO).

Selected relevant activities:

(a) 1994–1997: Committee on the Status of Women written and oral statements have been presented as appropriate;

(b) 1994–1995: Preparatory committee meetings for Fourth World Conference on Women; involved participation in parallel non-governmental organizations;

(c) Consultations participating in workshops, caucus groups and seminars;

(d) 1995–1997: draft optional protocol to CEDAW; Open-ended Working Group on the elaboration of a Draft Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women.

Miscellaneous:

(a) 1994–1997: Non-governmental organization/ Commission on Sustainable Development science and technology; caucuses; IAW served as Chair, organizing round table, discussions and workshops;

(b) 1995: "Family Planning for All", result of joint International Conference on Population and Development panel with Medical Women's Association, 1994–1997; dissemination of *Safe Motherhood Newsletter* and other relevant WHO publications, particularly to affiliates in developing countries;

(c) 1994–1997: information, affiliates to WHO: rape, female genital mutilation, menopause, men on wives' health;

(d) 1997: CONGO, participation in Women's Health Group;

(e) 1997: NGO Coordinating Committee on the Convention on the Rights of the Child; IAW recognized as member of the Group;

(f) 1997: World Health Assembly (WHA) collaboration: International Confederation of Midwives, reproductive health;

(g) 1997: report to the NGO Group on the Convention on the Rights of the Child, Geneva;

(h) 1997: Committee on the Status of Women, New York: written statement in conjunction with the World Federation of Trade Unions on promoting and encouraging women to exercise their right of association, and on food security;

(i) 1997: Commission on Human Rights, Geneva; joint statement, Special Committee of NGOs on Human Rights, on independence of Special Rapporteurs;

(j) 1997: WHO: recommendation of ad hoc group of non-governmental organizations to the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women regarding the proposed General Recommendation on Health;

(k) 1997: WHO: IAW included in new non-governmental organization group on reproductive, family and community health and population issues;

(l) 1997: Frankfurt International Conference on Women's Life and Cancer;

(m) 1997: participation in Global Coalition on Women's Health;

(n) 1997: membership in Committee to Celebrate the Centenary of Women's Suffrage in Western Australia;

(o) 1997: Women's Rural Day supported; promotion of 1998 Women's Rural Day and Committee on Food Security.

9. Christian Democratic International

(Special consultative status granted 1950)

Nature and objectives

Christian Democratic International (CDI) is an organization of political parties and organizations inspired by integral Christian humanism. Its main values and objectives are as follows: promotion and defence of human rights and national and international peace; recognition of the social nature of the human being and defence of basic social institutions, particularly the family; promotion and defence of democracy and democratic institutions; promotion of integral human development, with respect for nature and the preservation of natural resources; application of subsidiarity, solidarity and justice through the social market economy.

In order to respond adequately to the new realities which have emerged since the end of the cold war and the establishment of democracy in a considerable number of nations, CDI launched an internal reform process which resulted in the adoption, on 8 and 9 June 1995, of a basic document on principles and values of Christian democracy and of new statutes. During the period covered by this report, CDI expanded its geographical scope; its membership increased from 67 members at the beginning of 1994 to 76 members at the end of 1997.

Relations with the United Nations and participation in its activities

CDI representatives have been accredited every year to the three United Nations headquarters (New York, Geneva and Vienna), the regional economic commissions and the Department of Public Information at the United Nations Headquarters in New York.

CDI has participated in United Nations conferences, including the World Summit for Social Development (Copenhagen, March 1995) and the conferences on women's rights (Beijing, 1995) and population (Cairo, September 1994). It has also participated in the annual sessions of the Commission on Human Rights in Geneva, where it has delivered statements on various agenda items.

It has participated in the conference and annual meeting of non-governmental organizations accredited to the United Nations in New York.

The central theme of the Eleventh General Assembly of CDI (Brussels, 8 and 9 June 1995) was the fiftieth anniversary of the establishment of the United Nations.

On 16 April 1994, the Deputy Secretary-General of CDI, together with the Secretaries-General of Socialist International and Liberal International, visited the Secretary-General of the United Nations in New York to express their organizations' support for the World Summit for Social Development, which was to be held the following year in Copenhagen.

The President of CDI met in Geneva on 13 February 1997 with the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, the Director-General of the International Labour Office (ILO) and the Deputy Director-General for ILO Activities in Europe.

International conferences

CDI has held conferences on the following topics, which coincide with the objectives of the United Nations or its subsidiary bodies: "Humanism and democracy in the twenty-first century" (Santiago, 8 and 9 January 1994), at which the President of Chile made a statement; "An economy with a human face" (Manila, 19 to 23 November 1995), at which the main speaker was the President of the Philippines; "Human development in Latin America" (Santiago, 22 to 24 August 1996), at which the President of Chile was the main speaker; "Political development and religious currents in the Mediterranean basin" (Barcelona, 26 and 27 February 1997), at which representatives of the Director-General of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) and of the President of the European Union, respectively, made statements; "Globalization and National Identity" (Paris, 6 November 1997), at which the main speaker was the President of Romania.

Promotion of peace and democracy

This is considered to be one of the organization's primary responsibilities and it has received ongoing attention. To this end, the President, Vice-Presidents and Secretary-General of CDI have visited the following countries: Argentina, Mexico, Guatemala, El Salvador, Nicaragua, Bolivia, Costa Rica, Cuba, the Dominican Republic, Panama, Colombia, Venezuela, Ecuador, Chile, Belgium, the Netherlands, Spain, France, Luxembourg, Switzerland, Italy, Austria, Lithuania, Poland, Slovenia, Hungary, Romania, Norway, Israel, Palestine, Tunisia, Morocco, Jordan and the Philippines.

There they met with member parties and organizations of CDI, if any, participated in conferences on topics related to the principles and objectives of CDI and, whenever possible, met with government authorities, religious leaders and leaders of civil society. CDI has issued political statements and press releases on the following topics: elections in Equatorial Guinea; condemnation of the attempted coup d'état in Paraguay; need to advance towards unity in Europe; situation in southern Lebanon; presidential elections in Uganda; presidential elections in the Russian Federation; elections in Nicaragua; situation in the former Zaire; democracy for Myanmar; Oslo Agreement on peace in Guatemala; lifting of the embargo on the shipment of food and medicines to Cuba; proposals of CDI to promote positive change in Cuba; solidarity with the people of Yugoslavia and with the democratization initiatives of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe; threats to democracy in Colombia.

Documents and publications

CDI has streamlined its publications in order to adapt to the new international reality and to its new working methods. Its publications include the CDI newsletter (six issues published in French, English and Spanish) and the proceedings of its international conferences.

10. International Federation of Human Rights (IFHR)

(Special consultative status granted 1952)

Introduction

The International Federation of Human Rights (IFHR) was founded in 1922. Since the adoption of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights on 10 December 1948, IFHR has taken on the task of ensuring its practical implementation. Thus, during the past 50 years in which it has enjoyed the status of a non-governmental organization accredited to the United Nations in particular, IFHR has significantly expanded its activities, sending numerous missions to many countries and, in recent years, systematizing its legal cooperation and training programmes with local partners, as well as actions carried out through international institutions. At its thirty-third congress, held at Dakar from 20 to 23 November 1997, the Federation's international network was substantially enlarged; it now comprises 105 member organizations, including 64 affiliates and 41 correspondents in 86 countries.

Among the themes that have constituted the Federation's action priorities during the period under review and that have guided its activities within United Nations bodies are: combating impunity, implementing economic and social rights, guaranteeing women's rights as basic human rights and protecting human rights defenders.

The Federation's permanent delegations to the United Nations in Geneva and New York make it possible to conduct daily monitoring of its activities in relation to the Economic and Social Council and its subsidiary organs.

With regard to the organs and procedures of the United Nations, the Federation's activities during the period under review (1994–1997) can be summarized as follows.

Participation in the Economic and Social Council and its subsidiary organs

IFHR has continued to participate actively in the sessions of the Commission on Human Rights (fiftieth to fifty-third sessions) and the Subcommission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities (forty-sixth to forty-ninth sessions), and in the working groups established by those bodies. At those sessions the IFHR delegation was composed mainly of representatives of its member organizations. IFHR seeks to facilitate access by national organizations for the defence of human rights to the deliberations of these bodies.

The sessions that were held during the period under review constituted important information and training opportunities for the officials of the Federation's member organizations, who are its agents in the field. Thus, it also proved possible to organize training seminars. These seminars are aimed at promoting dialogue and cooperation between human rights defenders and representatives of States, and developing optimum cooperation between non-governmental organizations in the field and the organs and procedures of the United Nations.

IFHR also contributed to the studies developed by the United Nations in the framework of the International Decade of the World's Indigenous People, particularly with regard to the proposed establishment of a permanent forum for indigenous people within the United Nations system and the draft declaration on the rights of indigenous people. IFHR therefore participated in the seminar held in Santiago, Chile, on the establishment of a permanent forum, the sessions of the Subcommission's Working Group on Indigenous Populations and the sessions of the Commission's working group charged with elaborating a draft declaration on the rights of indigenous people.

Moreover, IFHR made a substantial contribution to the work of the Commission on Human Rights and the Subcommission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities by presenting mainly written statements and a number of oral statements on various agenda items, always with a view to facilitating the work of those bodies. The reports on IFHR activities during the sessions of the two organs are available from the NGO Section of the United Nations Secretariat.

Participation in sessions of treaty bodies

IFHR participated in sessions of the following treaty bodies: Human Rights Committee, Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, Committee for the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women, Committee on the Rights of the Child, Committee against Torture. During the sessions, it furnished the expert members of those bodies with information that might be useful to them in the consideration of periodic reports by States. At some sessions, IFHR coordinated the movements of representatives of its member organizations. At several sessions of the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, it presented written and oral statements.

Cooperation with the programmes and organs of the United Nations and specialized agencies

IFHR is now a non-governmental organization in official consultative status with UNESCO. In that capacity, during the period under review, IFHR took part in the preparations for and holding of the Special Conference of NGOs.

In addition, IFHR is on the ILO special list of NGOs. In that capacity, it participates in the International Labour Conference each year.

Other activities

Actions on behalf of the implementation of United Nations resolutions

During the period under review, IFHR cooperated on a regular basis with the mechanisms established by United Nations resolutions, particularly the thematic and country special rapporteurs, by transmitting to them information useful in the performance of their mandates (IFHR mission reports, reports of its member organizations, and so on) and complaints of human rights violations.

Each year IFHR transmitted communications under the procedure established under Economic and Social Council resolution 1503 (XLVIII). IFHR participated in the legislative working groups of the Commission on Human Rights, particularly the working group charged with elaborating a draft declaration on the rights of indigenous people, the working group charged with elaborating a draft declaration on the right and responsibility of individuals, groups and organs of society to promote and protect universally recognized human rights and fundamental freedoms, and the working group charged with elaborating an optional protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment.

IFHR participated in the deliberations of the Working Group of the Subcommission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities. Moreover, it responded to the appeal launched by the Working Group and contacted its 105 affiliates around the world to urge them to contribute to the work of the fourth session of that body, held in May 1998, on the theme of minority rights in education.

IFHR participated in the sessions of the Working Group on Contemporary Forms of Slavery of the Subcommission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities.

IFHR participated in the sessions of the Working Group on Indigenous Populations of the Commission and the Subcommission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities.

IFHR participated in the sessions of the Preparatory Committee on the Establishment of an International Criminal Court.

IFHR contributed to the preparation, organization and follow-up of the Fourth World Conference on Women (Beijing, September 1995).

Consultations and cooperation with officials of the United Nations Secretariat

IFHR held several meetings with the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights. It transmitted information on a regular basis to the special rapporteurs of the Commission on Human Rights through their assistants in the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights.

Preparation of documents at the request of the Secretary-General

IFHR transmitted information on various themes at the request of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights.

Moreover, IFHR provided information on a regular basis to be used in various studies prepared by the Subcommission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities.

11. Afro-Asian People's Solidarity Organization

(Special consultative status granted 1973)

Aims and purpose of the organization

Aims are:

(a) To unite broad democratic forces irrespective of political and religious, social and geographical differences against all forms of subjugation including intolerance and hate, for the common aim of cooperation and solidarity in order to create a peaceful, happy and prosperous life for humankind;

(b) To support the national liberation movements and democratic forces struggling for the preservation and defence of world peace, national culture, sovereignty and

territorial integrity, world economic security, ecology, human rights, universal justice, transparency, and free flow of information without distortion or hindrance;

(c) To work consistently for mobilizing popular support for the principles of the United Nations and its agencies:

There is no change in the geographical membership, and no change in the funding process.

Geographical extension

Affiliated national member organizations are mainly in Africa and Asia. There are associated members from Latin America, North America, Eastern and Western Europe and the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS).

Structure

The structure comprises:

(a) The Congress;

(b) The Presidium;

(c) The permanent secretariat;

(d) The national and associate member organizations.

For further details, kindly refer to the constitution.

Main activities

Main activities consist of:

(a) South-South cooperation: highlighting the problems of the South countries;

(b) On the basis of observer status with the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries (NAM), popularizing the activities of NAM and propagating the principles of NAM;

(c) Organizing conferences, seminars, round tables, discussions and meetings on disarmament, peace, development, human rights and ecology;

(d) Cooperating closely with international and national non-governmental organizations;

(e) Consultation conferences including seminars on a regional basis among Afro-Asian People's Solidarity Organization (AAPSO) national organizations such as the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC), the Association of South-East Asian Nations (ASEAN), and those in Arab, Middle Eastern and sub-Saharan African countries;

(f) Publications and documentation.

Relations with the United Nations and its specialized agencies and other intergovernmental organizations

These relations may be described as follows:

(a) In special consultative status with the Economic and Social Council;

(b) In consultative status with the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO); the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO); and the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD).

Relations with other international non-governmental organizations

AAPSO is a member of the Conference of Non-Governmental Organizations in Consultative Status with the Economic and Social Council (CONGO) and maintains close relations and cooperates with all the non-governmental organizations of CONGO.

AAPSO activities during the period from 1994–1997

AAPSO held the following seminars in that period:

(a) Arab or Middle Eastern Grouping: Cairo, Egypt, April 1994;

(b) A seminar on the "Defence of the Arab Identity of Jerusalem", Cairo, Egypt, June 1995;

(c) Meetings of the Arab solidarity committees: Cairo, Egypt, 1994; Damascus, Syrian Arab Republic, 1995; Beirut, Lebanon, 1996;

(d) Seminar on "The role of non-governmental organizations in the settlement of conflicts in Africa", Cairo, Egypt, 16 May 1994;

(e) Preparation for the second Mediterranean conference on "Solidarity and cooperation in the Mediterranean region": Cairo, Egypt, 18–20 March 1994;

(f) Seminar on "Environment and regional cooperation" (AAPSO with Egyptian Centre for Research and Information, Cairo, Egypt, 7–8 May 1994;

(g) "Economic cooperation in the Middle East: prospects and challenges", Cairo, Egypt, 14–16 May 1994;

(h) General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) and developing countries, Cairo, Egypt, 7 June 1994;

(i) International campaign for nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation (Coordinating Committee of the International Campaign for Disarmament and Non-Proliferation), Cairo, Egypt, 22 June 1994;

(j) "Preparation for the World Summit for Social Development", Cairo, Egypt, 10 January 1995;

(k) "The future on the Non-Aligned Movement", Cairo, Egypt, January 1995;

(l) "Beijing: What next? action: enough recommendations", Cairo, Egypt, 7 May 1996;

(m) "The fiftieth anniversary of the defeat of Fascism": Cairo, Egypt, 4 May 1995;

(n) "Development in the Great Lakes region and its impact on the socio-economic status of Africa", Cairo, Egypt, 16 June 1997;

(o) "Clash of civilization or dialogue of culture", Cairo, Egypt, 10–12 March 1997.

International conferences

Representatives of the permanent secretariat attended the following:

(a) International Conference on Population and Development, Cairo, Egypt, 1994;

(b) World Summit for Social Development, Copenhagen, 1995;

(c) Fourth World Conference on Women, Beijing, China, 1995;

(d) AAPSO Asian Regional Conference, Hanoi, Viet Nam, 1995;

(e) The United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II): Istanbul, Turkey, 1996;

(f) Muslim and Christian conference concerning Jerusalem, Beirut, 1996;

(g) Twelfth Ministerial Conference of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries, New Delhi, India, 1997;

(h) International Coordinating Committee for NGOs on the Question of Palestine (ICCP) conference, Jakarta, Indonesia, 1997;

(i) The National Front of the Arab Labour Syndicates and Unions meeting, Tripoli, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, 19–22 July, 1997;

(j) United Nations international non-governmental organization meeting/European non-governmental organization symposium on the question of Palestine, Geneva, 25–28 August 1997;

(k) Organization of Solidarity of the Peoples of Africa, Asia and Latin America (OSPAAL) international meeting: Twenty-first century legacy and validity of "Che Guevara", Havana, Cuba, 25–27 September 1997;

(l) Twentieth General Assembly of the Conference of Non-Governmental Organizations in Consultative Status with the Economic and Social Council (CONGO), International Labour Organization (ILO), Geneva, 3–5 November 1997;

(m) International Conference on Stereotypes and Alterity: Perceptions of Otherness in the Mediterranean, Malta, 27–29 November 1997;

(n) All meetings of the UNICEF project: Group to Alleviate the Burden of Poor Women, Egypt, 10 October–20 November 1997.

12. All Pakistan Women's Association

(Special consultative status granted 1951)

All Pakistan Women's Association (APWA) is one of the first organizations to bring human rights problems to the attention of the United Nations and international communities at large. Hence APWA was granted special consultative status with the Economic and Social Council, the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) and is in association with the Department of Public Information of the United Nations Secretariat. APWA is a national association of women of Pakistan. It has four provincial (56 districts) fringe urban areas and rural branches throughout Pakistan. APWA has branched out at international level with branches in London, Bradford, Manchester, Birmingham, Toronto and Beijing.

WVOCC (Women's Voluntary Coordinating Council) was formed to intensify its services in depth.

APWA's objectives are in conformity with the objectives of the United Nations, that is to say, integration of women in the national development priorities on education, health, family planning and income-generating skills and legal rights of women.

The emphasis is on mobilizing women as a force to promote universal peace: APWA was awarded the Peace Messenger Certificate of 1987.

APWA's activities are describable as follows:

(a) Vital role of APWA in the field of education: over the years it has established 73 primary and secondary schools; five arts and science degree colleges; three colleges of home economics throughout Pakistan;

(b) Legal and social services are being rendered at APWA's community centres throughout Pakistan and particularly at APWA's Jail Project in Karachi where income-generating skills are also taught to women prisoners and primary education is provided to their children;

(c) APWA disseminates knowledge about the activities of the United Nations and its affiliate bodies by holding conferences, seminars and meetings throughout Pakistan;

(d) Among other functions are the following:

(i) APWA Women's Rights Section held conferences in 1994 which recommended establishment of a permanent commission on the status of women to sign and ratify the United Nations Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women;

(ii) Again in 1994, a workshop on women and law was held in cooperation with the Ministry of Youth and Development and Youth Affairs; the workshop was a preparatory committee for the Beijing conference;

(iii) Beijing 1995, Fourth World Conference on Women was held in Beijing with pressure from APWA;

(iv) The Government of Pakistan also signed and ratified the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women;

(v) APWA rendered social and legal services for creating awareness at its various centres where video films on legal and socio-economic rights of women are screened;

(vi) APWA's views are in conformity with those of the Economic and Social Council: APWA is making every effort to eliminate all discrimination against women;

(vii) In 1994, at the specific recommendations of APWA, a permanent commission on the status of women was established for signing and ratifying the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women;

(viii) In 1994, the APWA Triennial Conference was held with special reference to women's rights and the United Nations;

(ix) Seminar on women and development, 8 and 9 February 1994;

There was a consensus that the Government of Pakistan must sign and ratify the United Nations Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women. To the satisfaction of APWA, the Government of Pakistan signed the Convention;

(e) United Nations section reports back to the United Nations and concerned United Nations bodies on the implementation of United Nations resolutions, conventions and decisions that cover all the fields of its work: equality, development and peace; the United Nations section is in continuous correspondence, with necessary information, with the United Nations and concerned bodies;

(f) APWA has its representatives at the United Nations in New York and Vienna. With the death of its Representative in Geneva, APWA is in process of nominating an able representative in Geneva;

(g) United Nations Affairs Section has observed United Nations days since 1956:

(i) In 1995: commemoration of fiftieth anniversary of the United Nations: chief guest, Governor of Sindh Province;

(ii) In 1996: United Nations Day was held: chief guest, Minister of Defence; chief speaker, Secretary, Women's Division;

(iii) In 1997: "Human Rights are Women's Rights": chief guest, Minister of State for Foreign Affairs; Message from Prime Minister of Pakistan;

(h) Besides, meetings and conferences are also held at provincial and district levels;

(i) UNICEF days are held during APWA's projects every year in schools: children's stage dramas, songs and exhibitions of their paintings, handicrafts and so on;

(j) UNESCO has donated library books to APWA's educational institutions;

(k) United Nations Affairs Section of APWA since its inception has striven to support United Nations objectives and efforts in the process of peace; the section is also in continuous contact with the Department of Public Information of the United Nations Secretariat, UNICEF, UNESCO in New York, Geneva, Vienna;

(l) Replies are dispatched to United Nations Office in Geneva and Vienna: reply to some United Nations letters:

(i) Children and labour: can they coexist; approaching rights of the child, 23–29 October;

(ii) Survey sheets and questionnaire duly filled: replies are dispatched to United Nations Offices in New York and at Vienna regularly;

(m) At the call of Dr. Elain Vold, Chair NGO/DPI conference, a sum of $50 was donated by the Vice-President for United Nations Affairs for a plaque to be placed with the names of non-governmental organizations in United Nations Resource Centre;

(n) World Congress against Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children, Stockholm, Sweden. In reply a paper on Islam and Europe was sent to Ms. Lenr Hjlem Wallen, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Sweden; she sent a letter of thanks inviting the Executive Vice-President to attend the Conference;

(o) United Nations NGO Forum, Beijing: Hurario was a powerful force which kept delegates informed about the empowerment of women in every sphere of their lives;

(p) Questionnaires, survey sheets, performas sent by the United Nations and United Nations bodies: replies are sent to the concerned United Nations bodies to provide substantial information on various aspects of APWA activities.

The most significant fact is that the All Pakistan Women's Association has been a force which, in Cupertino with women members of the Assembly, prevailed on the Government to treat women as human beings; hence equal rights were given to the women in the Constitution of Pakistan, 1973.

Through the joint efforts of APWA and other women associations, the Government was approached to take measures to address custodial domestic violence as a punishable crime. Hence the Government took action by increasing the number of women in the police force.

The United Nations needs the services of non-governmental organizations to promote social integration and sustainable human development which will ultimately lead to the accomplishment of the goal of human rights. As stated before, APWA is playing a vital role in the promotion of human rights and development.